WQ Advisory Council Meeting

Chapter 641. Individual and Small Public On-site Sewage Treatment Systems

July 21, 2020
Emergency Authority

- House Bill 3461
  - Direction to reduce minimum length requirements for lateral lines to the full extent allowed while maintaining protection of human health and the environment.
  - Near unanimous approval in the House. The bill did not see a vote by the Senate due to the Health Emergency.
Changes will result in a significant cost reduction related to the installation of various on-site sewage treatment systems.

- Change to the Zone 1 Waterbody Protection Area
- Reduction and combination of aerobic system spray application sizing
- Reduction in the sizing of conventional subsurface absorption systems for some areas of the State.
Revision - Waterbody Protection Area

Zone 1

- Initial Rule language implemented in 2012 to provide for the reduction of nutrient levels based on a separation distance from the on-site sewage treatment system and the listed waterbody.
- Zone 1 distance required the reduction of nitrogen for all new and modified on-site systems located within 660 feet of the listed waterbody.
- Proposed changes to rule will reduce the Zone 1 distance from 660 feet to 300 feet.
  - A separation distance of 300 feet places this waterbody protection distance in-line with the PWS distances for drinking water, while reducing the Zone by over half.
- No change is proposed for Zone 2
Revision- Optional Reduction in Conventional Subsurface Absorption Sizing

- Proposing language establishing an optional length reduction for Counties located in Central and Western Oklahoma.
- The optional reduction is based on research completed by Dr. Sergio Abit, Oklahoma State University.
- The proposed revisions establishes optional reductions of 15% and 30% for conventional subsurface absorption lines when those systems are designed using a soil profile.
- The findings of the study did not recommend a reduction in sizing of lateral lines for Eastern Oklahoma.
Revision- Aerobic System Application Reductions

- A rule revision in 2007 amended the aerobic spray areas in Eastern Oklahoma and based them on the 90th percentile rainfall.
- This increase resulted in some of the application areas tripling in size.
- We are proposing to roll back the application areas to the sizes in place before the 2007 rule change.
- We are also combining application sizing criteria for several of the Net Evaporation Zones. This change will simplify the design process required at the onset of each installation.
Revision- Small Public Aerobic Dispersal Sizing

- It was identified that spray or drip dispersal sizing was not included in the previous revision.
- Changes to existing figures in Appendix H will be made to provide sizing guidance.
  - Spray sizing will be based on the residential application areas.
  - Drip irrigation sizing is based on soil loading rates for the specific soil texture.
Stake Holder Outreach

- A survey has been sent to our stakeholders for input regarding these changes.
- If meeting restrictions are lifted, outreach meetings will be held for discussion.
- Comments will be requested once a “draft” is ready for review.
In Conclusion

- Seek Council Approval at the September 2020 meeting.

- Emergency Rules to the November Environmental Quality Board Meeting for approval.

- Rules will then go through the permanent process for the 2021 Legislative Session
Point of Contact

- Please direct all questions to Nicholas Huber, ECLS On-site Program Manager

- Email: Nicholas.Huber@deq.ok.gov

- Office phone: 405-702-6188
- Cell phone: 405-564-3750